

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for securing a branch assembly to a pipeline, wherein the branch assembly comprises a first part for locating on the side of the pipeline remote from the side from which the branch is to extend, and a second part incorporating the branch, the method comprising:

positioning a containment ring on the pipeline at the required position on the pipeline and surrounding the area from which the branch is to extend[[],];

positioning an annular seal on the pipeline so that the seal is wholly radially within the containment[[],];

positioning the second part of the branch assembly onto the seal[[],];

positioning the first part of the assembly on the pipe line and securing the first and second parts together so as to compress the seal and leave an annular space between the first and second parts and the external surface of the pipeline[[],]; and

providing sealing means for substantially preventing grout from escaping from the annular space, and introducing into the annular space grout that cures to bond the branch assembly in position on the pipeline.

2. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first part forms the lower part of the assembly and the second part forms the upper part of the assembly.

3. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the annular seal is made of rubber or of a polymer and metal composite.

4. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the grout is injected into the annular space between the first and second parts and the external surface of the pipeline.

5. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 1, wherein jacking means are employed to space the first part from the pipeline when the first and second parts have been secured together on the pipeline.

6. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 5, in which the jacking means is hydraulically operated.

7. (Original) A method as in claim 6, in which the jacking means comprises a plurality of jacking members slidably mounted in apertures in the first part and pressure-applying means mounted with respect to the first part and behind the jacking members and being urged under hydraulic pressure against the jacking members to cause the jacking members to be urged towards the pipeline to positions to space the first part from the pipeline.

8. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 7, in which the jacking members are slidably mounted in bosses ~~or the like~~ secured or fixed to the first part, and the pressure-applying members are also slidably mounted in the bosses ~~or the like~~.

9. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 7, in which when the jacking members are in position spacing the first part from the pipeline, stop means are fixed in

position with respect to the first part to prevent the jacking members moving away from the pipeline.

10. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 7, in which the pressure-applying means are removably mounted with respect to the first part, and the stop means are adapted to occupy the positions occupied by the pressure-applying means when the latter are removed.

11. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 10, in which the stop means are screwed into position in threaded supporting members fixed to the first part.

12. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 7, in which one or more load bearing members are positioned between the pipeline and the jacking members to spread the applied load when the jacking members are in position spacing the first part from the pipeline.

13. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 12, in which the load bearing members are in the form of enlarged feet on the jacking members.

14. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 13, in which the surfaces of the feet generally correspond to the profile of the pipeline.

15. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 12, in which the load bearing members are secured to the pipeline in positions so that they will be engaged or contacted by the jacking members.

16. (Canceled).